UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/2000/78
14 December 1999

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-sixth session
Item 14 (d) of the provisional agenda

SPECIFIC GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS: OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

Note by the secretariat

1. At its fifty-second session, the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1996/61, requested the Secretary-General to examine, in cooperation with relevant United Nations agencies, in particular the World Health Organization, as well as the International Criminal Police Organizations and all relevant non-governmental organizations, the reliability of allegations regarding the removal of organs and tissues of children and adults for commercial purposes in order to enable the Commission at its fifty-third session to decide upon possible follow-up in this matter, taking into account the recommendation of the Sub-Commission in this regard.

2. At its fifty-third session, the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1997/20, taking note of the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1997/78), requested the Secretary-General to continue the examination of the reliability of allegations regarding the removal of organs and tissues of children and adults for commercial purposes and to include an analysis of this question in an updated report to be submitted to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session, in order to enable the Commission to decide whether continued attention to this question is required.

3. Pursuant to this resolution, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale to Governments and concerned institutions, as well as a reminder. No information was received, therefore no report was submitted to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session.

4. At its fifty-sixth session, the Commission, in its resolution 1999/46, noting that the Secretary-General had not yet received any information about the reliability of allegations regarding the removal of organs and tissues of children and adults and, in order to enable the Commission to examine this question, again requested the Secretary-General to seek information among relevant specialized agencies, working closely in particular with the Advisory Committee on Health Research of the World Health Organization and the International Criminal Police Organization, and to include an analysis of the information received in an updated report to be submitted to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session.

5. Pursuant to this resolution, a note verbale was sent to concerned agencies. As of 30 November, no substantive replies had been received.